

1 **TITLE: ACCESSORY FOR SHOELACES**

2 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

3 **(1) FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

4       The present invention generally relates to an accessory for shoes, and more  
5       particularly pertains to a cover means for collecting and storing the bows and ends of  
6       tied shoelaces while being attached to the shoes.

7 **(2) DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART**

8       There have been numerous patents granted in the field of accessories for shoelaces.  
9       Such as #4,553,293, #4,949,437, #5,335,400, #5,657,557, #6,000,111, #6,601,323,  
10      Des.#369,237 and Des. #356,675.

11       In US patent #4,553,293 the invention does secure the laces but it does not provide  
12      a collecting and storage for the bows and ends of shoe laces.

13       In US patent #4,949,437 the invention does secure the shoe laces but the bow and  
14      ends of the laces to flop.

15       In US patent #5,335,400 the invention does provide a collection and storage means  
16      but does not prevent the accessory from flopping around.

17       In US patent #5,657,557 the invention attaches to both the eyes and is secured to  
18      the back of the shoe. The loose ends of the shoelaces flop around.

19       In US patent #6,000,111 the invention does provide a shoelace containment factor.  
20      In this invention the fastener is attached to the laces themselves.

21       In US patent #6,601,323 the shoelaces are attached to the cover and then are  
22      secured by wrapping the ends of the cover to the back of the ankle.

23       In US Design patents #369,237 and #356,675 the covers do attach to the laces but  
24      still flop around.

25 **SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION**

26       In view of the foregoing disadvantages inherent in the known types of accessories

1 for shoelaces now present in the prior art, the present invention provides an improved  
2 cover with a safety factor for the shoelace eyes and lace ends by completely  
3 encapsulating these loose ends to both sides of the shoe. There are three models for  
4 the present invention. Each uses the same basic principal. As such, the general  
5 purpose of the present invention, which will be described subsequently in greater  
6 detail, is to provide a new and improved shoelace apparatus and method of use which  
7 has all the advantages of the prior art and none of the disadvantages.

8 To attain this, the present invention provides three models.

9 (1) The first cover, model #1, has two pieces, a left and right side for any shoe,  
10 which provide the same positioned apertures at the front end of each cover which  
11 accommodate the two lace ends so as to allow the lace ends to pass through the  
12 apertures and retain the cover to the laces. The shoe laces are then tied into a  
13 standard bow. The bow and the resulting tied shoelace end are both now folded inside  
14 the cover while a first attachment means, being a male part and a female part snap,  
15 are mated together thereby holding the bow and the tied shoelace end in place. The  
16 same scenario is provided for each side of the shoe. In this model the first attachment  
17 means is a male and female snap which are permanent attached to the cover. The  
18 back end of the cover has a second attachment means being the female side of the  
19 snap which is also permanently attached thereon the cover while the male end is  
20 permanently attached to the shoe itself.

21 This second attachment, female snap, attached to the cover mates together with the  
22 third attachment means, being the male snap on the shoe, thereby creating the  
23 attachment means for the cover to the shoe. Both sides of the shoe have the same  
24 cover arrangement and attachment means. Model #1 has its own individual sequence  
25 of installation instructions and can be placed on any style shoe.

26 (2) The second cover, model #2, also consists of two lace covers as separate pieces;  
27 each piece provides an aperture at the front end which accommodates the lace end by  
28 first allowing the lace to pass through the aperture of the present invention and  
29 secondly retaining the cover to the laces. Each shoe lace is now tied into the same

1 standard bow with the same tied shoelace end. The resulting bows and the remaining  
2 tied shoelace end are both now folded inside of the cover. In model #2 there is no snap  
3 means such as seen in model #1. Instead, the cover is simply folded thereby  
4 automatically encapsulating the bow and the tied shoelace end. The complete cover is  
5 folded over the side of the shoe and hangs inside. In this model #2 a first attachment  
6 means being a "U" shaped clip is supplied which is forced over the folded cover and  
7 the side of the shoe thereby securing the cover to the side of the shoe. Both sides of the  
8 shoe have the same arrangement. Model #2 has its own individual sequence of  
9 installation instructions and be placed on any style shoe.

10 (3) The third cover, model #3, has the exact same front end aperture means on the  
11 left and right side along with the same bow and tied shoelace end scenario. The cover  
12 in this model #3 is made as a one piece construction, instead of two pieces such as in  
13 model #1 and #2, which folds down into the shoe itself whereby the arch and weight of  
14 the person's foot holds this cover model #3 in place. A clip mean is not used in this  
15 model as the cover securing means. Instead, the first attachment means, the same as  
16 the two piece snap means in model #1, is used to encapsulate the bow and tied  
17 shoelace end. One end fits on the left side, while the other end fits on the left side of  
18 any style shoe. Model #3 has its own individual sequence of installation instructions.

19 The common purpose of all three of the aforementioned models is to provide a  
20 means to accept and retain the bow and tied shoelace end to both sides of a shoe,  
21 thereby providing a safety means so a person will not trip and fall because of untied  
22 loose shoelaces. All three models prevent the shoelace from coming loose and thereby  
23 untied while each of the three models are attachable to any style shoe. The cover  
24 described in each model is made of a soft flexible material such as cloth, which may be  
25 colored coordinated to match any shoe such as a dress or a sports shoe such as a  
26 running shoe wherein the material may have a glow in the dark accent to help provide  
27 protection for runners. The three models of the present invention succeed in  
28 providing an improvement over the prior art in this field. Further, an option in the  
29 present invention is for the manufacturer of the shoe to make one or all of the models.

1 and add the model directly to their shoe line. There has thus been outlined, rather  
2 broadly, the three models of the invention in order that the detailed description  
3 thereof that follows may be better understood, and in order that the present  
4 contribution to the art may be better appreciated. There are, of course, additional  
5 features of the present invention that will be described hereinafter and which will  
6 form the subject matter of the claims appended hereto.

7 In this respect, before explaining at least one embodiment of the present invention  
8 in detail, it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited in its  
9 application to the details of construction and the arrangement of the components set  
10 forth in the following description or illustrated in the drawings. The invention is  
11 capable of other embodiments and of being practiced and carried out in various ways,  
12 also, it is to be fully understood that the phraseology and terminology employed  
13 herein are for the purpose of description and should not be regarded as limited.

14 As such, those skilled in the art will appreciate that the conception, upon which  
15 this disclosure is based, may readily be utilized as a basis for the designing of other  
16 structures, methods and systems for carrying out the several purpose of the present  
17 invention. It is important, therefore, that the claims be regarded as including such  
18 equivalent constructions insofar as they do not depart from the spirit and scope of the  
19 present invention.

20 Further, the purpose of the foregoing abstract is to enable the U.S. Patent and  
21 Trademark Office and the public generally, and especially the scientists, engineers  
22 and practitioners in the art who are not familiar with patent or legal terms or  
23 phraseology, to determine quickly from a cursory inspection the nature and essence of  
24 the technical disclosure of the present application. The abstract is neither intended to  
25 define the invention of the application, which is measured by the claims, nor is it  
26 intended to be limited as to the scope of the present invention in any way.

27 It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide a new and improved  
28 accessory for a shoe which has the advantage of the prior art devices and none of the  
29 disadvantages.

1       **It is another object of the present invention to provide a new and improved shoe**  
2       **accessory which may be easily and efficiently manufactured and marketed.**

3       **It is a further object of the present invention to provide a new and improved shoe**  
4       **accessory which is of a durable and reliable construction.**

5       **An even further object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved**  
6       **shoe accessory which is susceptible of a low cost of manufacture with regard to both**  
7       **materials and labor, and which accordingly is then susceptible of low prices of sale to**  
8       **the consuming public, thereby making such shoe accessories economically available to**  
9       **the buying public.**

10       **Still yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved**  
11       **shoe accessory which provides I the apparatuses and methods of the prior art some of**  
12       **the advantages thereof, while simultaneously overcoming some of the advantages**  
13       **normally associated therewith.**

14       **Still another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved shoe**  
15       **accessory operable from a novice's level.**

16       **Yet another object of the present invention is to provide a new and improved**  
17       **system for storing the tied shoelace eyes and ends thereafter for security and safety.**

18       **These together with other objects of the present invention, along with the various**  
19       **features of novelty which characterize the present invention, are pointed out with a**  
20       **particularity in the claims annexed to and forming a part of this disclosure. For a**  
21       **better understanding of the present invention, its operating and installation**  
22       **advantages and the specific objects attained by its uses, reference should be had to the**  
23       **accompanying drawings and descriptive matter in which there are illustrated**  
24       **preferred embodiments of the present invention.**

25       **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

26       **The invention will be better understood and objects other than those set forth**  
27       **above will become apparent when consideration is given to the following detailed**

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1 description thereof. Such description makes reference to the annexed drawings  
2 wherein:

3 FIG. 1 is a drawing of the invention showing the left side cover of Model #1.

4 FIG. 2 is a drawing of the invention showing the right side cover of Model #1.

5 FIG. 3 is a detailed drawing of Model #1 showing the cover being attached by the  
6 snap means to the side of the shoe.

7 FIG. 4 is a drawing of the invention showing the left side cover of Model #2.

8 FIG. 5 is a drawing of the invention showing the right side cover of Model #2.

9 FIG. 6 is a detailed drawing of Model #2 showing the cover being attached by the clip  
10 means to the side of the shoe.

11 FIG. 7 is a drawing of the invention showing the one piece layout of Model #3.

12 **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT**

13 In Fig. 1 left side cover 1 of model #1 is shown with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace  
14 end 4 passing through aperture 5. Cover 1 is also shown with male snap 6 and female  
15 snap 7 which are snapped together thereby forming the finished attachment means  
16 for the left side cover 1 being used to fulfill the purpose of the present invention..

17 Female snap 8 is shown at the opposite or bottom end of cover 1. Fig. 2 shows the  
18 model #1 right side cover 2 with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through  
19 aperture 5. Cover 1 is also shown with male snap 6 and female snap 7 which also snap  
20 together thereby forming the finished attachment means for the right side cover 2.

21 Fig. 3 shows the cover 1 of model #1 with the female snap attachment means 8  
22 attached there through cover 1 and aligned, so as to snap together, with male snap 9  
23 which is attached to the side of shoe 12. Fig. 4 shows the left side cover 10 of model #2  
24 with aperture 5 therein with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through  
25 aperture 5. Fig. 5 shows the right side cover 11 of model #2 with aperture 5 therein  
26 with shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Fig. 6 shows clip  
27 13 securing both sides of folded cover 10 to the side of shoe 12. Fig. 7 shows model #3

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1 as a one piece constructed cover 14 with the wearer's foot 15 drawn in dotted lines so  
2 as to show the relationship of foot 15 to cover 14. The right and left side are shown  
3 with the same shoelace 3 and loose shoelace end 4 passing through aperture 5. Also  
4 shown is female snap means 7 with male snap means 6 on each side of cover 14.

5 As to the manner of usage and operation of the present invention, the same should  
6 be apparent from the above description. Accordingly, no further discussion relating to  
7 the manner of usage and operation will be provided.

8 With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum  
9 dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size,  
10 materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are  
11 deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled in the art, and all equivalent  
12 relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are  
13 intended to be encompassed by the present invention.

14 Therefore, the foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the  
15 invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will be readily occur to  
16 those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction  
17 and operation shown and described, and accordingly, all suitable modifications and  
18 equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention.

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